

Must we preserve biodiversity ?

Summary of the philosophical dialogue organized with « 5èmes Magellan » (2nd year students, 12 years old) on Wednesday 13 December 2017
2 teachers : Mrs Rage, School Librarian and Media teacher and Mrs Bonnier, Science teacher.



New disposition of the room and allocation of roles (members of the circle, facilitators et secretaries)

1. How to have a successful philosophical dialogue ?

First pupils were shown the spidergram made by 3rd year students about « What makes good communication » and they discussed it.

2. What is biodiversity ?

Definition : **biodiversity*** is the variety of plant and animal species living in the same environment (example : in a school or in a pond, a field...)

Remember : an insect can be recognised thanks to the presence de 2 essential attributes: 6 legs and antennas.



One of the 2 secretaries of the session taking notes about their classmates exchanges



3. Why preserve biodiversity ?

- For the aesthetic, the beauty of nature.
- To allow us to breathe : plants release dioxygen (in the presence of light) which enables us to breathe and stay alive.
- To keep healthy : the bacteria present on our body or in our digestive tract can help us digest and can also protect us from pathogenic bacteria (= that can cause diseases).
- To enable the pollination of plants.
Pollination* = transportation of pollen from a flower to another, essential for the reproduction of plants. Bees are very important for pollination.



First exchanges after the distribution of roles (members of the circle, facilitators and secretaries)

Must we preserve biodiversity?

Summary of the philosophical dialogue organized with « 5èmes Cartier »

1. How to have a successful philosophical dialogue ?



Defining what can facilitate or hamper a philosophical dialogue

2. What is biodiversity ?

Definition : see above

There is biodiversity in our school because there are trees, animals, plants and us !

To study biodiversity : we can create a square of biodiversity in our garden, at school...
Some pupils have already worked on a square of biodiversity at primary school or in our school .



First exchanges after the distribution of roles (members of the circle, facilitators and secretaries)

3. Why preserve biodiversity ?

- We must preserve biodiversity because plants absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen (when there is light).
- Without worms, we cannot make compost.
- There are many food chains in nature. If you remove one link from the chain it can affect the whole food chain, but also human beings. A very small animal at the beginning of the food chain (example: mosquitoes) or a much bigger animal at the end of the chain (example: sharks) have an important role to play in the food chain.
- All the species are linked together in nature: it is called the **interconnectedness** of species.
- Man is responsible for the disappearance of many species. We destroy our own world, thus putting ourselves in danger too.
If human beings disappeared, would it be a serious loss for nature ?

